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THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Letter dated 12 March 1996 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

I wish to express my deep concern about draft resolutions A/50/L.67 and 68 of the General Assembly relating to the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH) and the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), by which the Secretary-General is requested to carry out the Assembly's decisions "within existing resources".

The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/215 of 23 December 1995, following the review of my proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, recognized that estimated expenditures represented a total of $2,712 million. The Assembly, however, appropriated only $2,608 million, having decided that additional reductions of $104 million would have to be achieved within the biennium. In its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995, the Assembly further decided that savings in the proposed programme budget would not affect the full implementation of mandated programmes and activities. I am currently still identifying the significant reductions which are needed to meet the requirements decided on by the General Assembly.

With the above-mentioned reductions to the regular budget, I have no flexibility to implement additional mandates within existing resources. The Assembly's request for the continuation of MICIVIH and MINUGUA without requisite

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financial resources therefore stands in danger of not being implemented. The extension of the two missions through 1996 would cost an additional estimated $24 million, and, should their mandates be extended through 1997, a further additional $28 million would be needed.

On a number of occasions, for example, in paragraph 32 of the Supplement to an Agenda for Peace (A/50/60), I have drawn attention to the need to establish agreed procedures for the financing of a class of field missions which are neither peace-keeping operations nor the kind of recurrent activity which is normally funded by the regular budget. In addition to MICIVIH and MINUGUA, there are a number of other such missions which will require additional financing should the political mandates be authorized and/or extended beyond their current period: the international commissions of inquiry in Burundi and Rwanda, the situation in Burundi, the United Nations political presence in Rwanda, the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL), the Central American peace process and the situation in Afghanistan. The estimated requirements for these activities, including MICIVIH and MINUGUA, would amount to over $40 million in 1996 and $50 million in 1997, totalling $90 million for the biennium. This does not take into account additional requirements for the expansion of MINUGUA, which will be necessary if it proves possible to complete the negotiation of a comprehensive peace settlement in Guatemala in the course of 1996.

It should also be recalled that the General Assembly established, in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a procedure whereby expenditures resulting from the impact of extraordinary expenses, including those related to the maintenance of peace and security, would be treated as requirements additional to the approved programme budget.

My main purpose in this letter is to alert Member States to the implications of requesting me to implement extended mandates for these missions, or for other such missions which may be established during the biennium, without at the same time providing adequate funding. As I made clear in my reports to the General Assembly recommending the extension of the mandates of MICIVIH and MINUGUA, existing decisions by the Assembly to reduce the level of the programme budget by $104 million make it impossible for me to absorb additional expenditures without affecting existing programmes and activities. I would thus be able to implement the mandates proposed in draft resolutions A/50/L.67 and 68 only if, at the same time, the Assembly were to decide which existing programmes should be curtailed, postponed or terminated.

I would like, Mr. President, to emphasize that this is not just a budgetary problem. It goes to the heart of the purposes for which this Organization was created. The human rights missions whose future is at stake have been established to help bring to an end long-standing conflicts and create conditions for a lasting peace for the peoples of the countries concerned. They have been designed in a way that responds to the frequently expressed wish of the Member States that higher priority should be given to preventive and peacemaking activities, which are a less costly remedy than peace-keeping operations. I believe that it would be a grievous setback for the Organization if, because of the current financial debate, it became impossible to retain MICIVIH, whose presence is essential to consolidate the Organization's and

Members States' remarkable achievements in Haiti, and MINUGUA, whose presence is fundamental to realization of the best prospects that have ever existed to bring to an end the armed confrontation which has afflicted the people of Guatemala for 35 years.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI